

**Seasonal
Silver**

Summer 1987



Volume 3 Number 1

The purpose of this magazine/newsletter is to express a love of Nature and a basically Humanitarian point of view--that whatever our beliefs, gender, color, sexual preference--or whatever makes us unique individual human beings--we CAN get along with and love each other.

And we CAN love and respect Her:

Our Mother, the Earth.

This is a seasonal/quarterly magazine/newsletter.

Staff includes Donna Lyon Rhose, Aridiana, Geoffrey Pfaff, Miguel, Jaime Redwing, Gil Wyndel, Crystal Drapun and Arion.

With Special Thanks to Gary.

The Reflective Woods EDITORIAL



Open Letter to Seasonal Silver's Readers:

Because I have been involved in mysticism for many years, I have had some opportunity of observing changes I find both interesting as well as informative. Many occult attitudes began their formation near the turn of the Century, a time when much Hermetic esoteria was in vogue. However, nothing has remained stagnant in the years that followed--though it's only been since the era of the Hippies that there's been a strong shift from heavy Ceremonial to an increasingly looser, more Earth-oriented mysticism. I think it would be most enjoyable if you would like to write and give your observances on changes, what you remember that no longer is done, or what has developed out of something else. I would be happy to print any applicable memories as that sort of information can help let folks experiencing the current esoteric scene know why and how certain manners and attitudes have developed.

My own history, which is mainly focused in Wicca/Paganism, remembers the early Crystal Well magazine once called the Waxing Moon. In it was described the two types of Witchcraft (the word Wicca was rarely if ever used). There was a long description of Gardnerian Witchcraft, however the "other" type was called Traditional--described as "everybody else." There was even heavy debate whether or not anything but Gardnerian was really Witchcraft. Groups were usually very small (you had to get 3-4 groups together to come up with "big" numbers, like 20 people) and often the one-to-one teaching was more adhered to.

I remember having to answer an extensive list of questions before I could even start receiving the Crystal Well. Finding and joining any group was fairly difficult. I found a group only through an occult shop and true Witch-oriented shops were very rare. To me, Paganism has fairly "exploded," in the last five years. In fact, when I first entered, almost all neo-Pagans considered themselves Witches (Gardnerian or no)--nowadays, conventional Wicca seems on a sharp decline as a desire for more diversity moves in. At Gatherings, Witches are now often rare, whereas at one time, it was almost all you met. Yet, conventional Wicca influence is still very strong especially in basic ritual format.

I am ever fascinated by the fact that some of the first groups I was a part of had five levels and some of the groups with three degrees did evolve from the five-level groups, rather than the three Gardnerian type of degrees. I wonder "why" the decision to go to three degrees if their degrees are the same as Gardnerian or if they are a hybrid. Perhaps the reason is more peculiar to each group

involved. However, nowadays it is very unusual to run into "any" group that still uses the five levels. In a way, I think it ought to be ressurected as it's very valid--Earth, Water, Fire, Air, and Spirit with at least a year and a day spent immersed in each element. I would even think an intertwining of five levels with the basic three degrees might be a way to deepen the understanding in present Wicca--or even any basic Pagan format!

I remember that what we now tend to call Feminist Wicca was what was usually referred to as Dianic Witchcraft; and I believe that Dianic, outside Gardnerian, is one of the oldest "visable" forms of Wicca. Its lineage is as rich and clear as what I find to be more-or-less, conventional Wicca--often more so. A longer look into Dianic Witchcraft and its roots might also be a valuable way to deepen understanding for any neo-Pagan format. They are a true and distinct alternative form to the more conventional Wicca.

When I first heard the terminology of "Grove," I wasn't certain what was meant by it (I'm still a bit hazy on it). I don't think it means the same thing to everyone. Is it an outer court--groups over 20 people--Pagan group versus Wiccan--Pagan and Wiccan?

What about near forgotten things like the Wiccan Rede--the main mythos of conventional Wicca (no, it's not the one in Starhawk's book, though that one is beautiful too) and of course, the Book of the Law? I rarely hear or see the very beautiful self-blessing anymore--I remember its being done every New Moon up north. Having been on a semi-Sabbatical for roughly three years, many things were quite startling to me when I returned to group working. One of the most fascinating "new turns" for me is what I tend to think of as the Starhawk sort of Wicca. It is something different, it does not resemble conventional Wicca very much as conventional Wicca is far more Ceremonial. It almost seems like a hybrid of Wicca and Shamanism.

I would love to hear from others on such things--on any variant esoteric lineage; they all intertwine and contribute to the modern occult community.

NOTE: I will be doing a "Letters to the Editor" column--I encourage readers' comments in general. Let me hear from you!

Blessings from the Foothills of Georgia,

Anna Lyon Rose



Letters to the Editors*

Greetings,

I was delighted to read your response to John D. Wells' letter on "Secrets" in the Winter/Spring 86-7 issue of Seasonal Silver. I stumbled into the utterly ridiculous state of "Illumination" four years ago. Sometimes I feel as if I am the first one to figure It out and sometimes I'm sure I'm the last. It seems to me that a person seeking "Enlightenment" will almost certainly not find it. (I didn't even have a word for It.) I have tried Teaching but it seems to confuse people even more. Oh, what can I say?

Scott Yarnall

Merry Meet, Scott:

I think you've said it. Your sentence that: "sometimes.. first and sometimes last" shows you have indeed touched into "Enlightenment"--it seems (and Xandarza would agree) that the more confused we get--the clearer we're getting; or as the Olde Occult Sayings have a way of saying: "It is; it ain't; it is again; sometimes, all the time, almost never, and then again almost always." All seriousness aside, Souls who seek Enlightenment will ultimately obtain it--if not in the particular lifetime they started, then certainly at some future point in Time. Teaching IT is, as you have said, ANOTHER THING. They do get confused--and it isn't easy to explain the Unspeakable Knowledges--because they have to be directly perceived by the Deeper Mind and then explained/defined by the Material Brain--in a way that can be used by the Whole Energy Unit (Soul) throughout all the dimensions in a way that Soul/Energy Unit can understand it which may not be the way the Teacher understood it. Ah! Enlightenment. Great Stuff! Whether you like it or not...are ready or not...It's waiting for you (so, lighten up, come unstuck)!

Blessed Be, Keep up the Good Work....

Aridiana

Dear Donna,

Hi! Believe it or not, here it is! I really hope you like it, and look forward to hearing your opinion. Take care and BLESSED BE!-- Don

Dear Don,

I want to proudly welcome you and your delightful magazine into the network. I wish you much success!

To my readers, let me strongly recommend THE WHEEL OF HECATE. It is filled with fine artwork, well thought out rituals and fascinating articles. Though \$4.00 per issue, it is 50 pages on full-sized paper--and brimming full with worthwhile works. Please support his efforts--you won't be disappointed!

Donna

Checks payable to:

The Wheel of Hecate

c/o The Mystic Link

P.O. Box 190

Lockport, Illinois 60441-0190

Although the Assyrians once occupied Babylon, they were not truly Babylonians. They came from the neighboring empire which had grown in size due to the Assyrian military machine, one of the finest of its day. The Assyrians held their empire by mixing people much as the Soviet Union has done in modern times. Whole cities of conquered people were forced to leave their homes and scattered to other parts of the Assyrian Empire so they could not unite and revolt against their oppressors.

Late in the 7th Century (BCE), the Assyrians under Sennacherib destroyed Babylon almost entirely and proceeded to modernize and enlarge the older Assyrian city of Nineveh turning it into their new capitol. Twenty-five years after the destruction of Babylon, Sennacherib was murdered by one of his sons. His sons fought for the kingship and the winner rebuilt Babylon.

When the Assyrians occupied Babylon, they launched a military campaign which partly subjugated and destroyed the bulk of known civilization from Egypt to Persia and the Persian Gulf to the land of the northern barbarians. Ashurbanipal, the monarch responsible for the care of the new enlarged Assyrian Empire, used his army to maintain his supremacy. Perhaps it was the bitterness caused by his rule that was partly responsible for the empire's downfall in less than thirty years.

The uniting of the world under Assyrian rule resulted in concentrated knowledge. Libraries were filled with "books" from all parts of the empire and scribes were versed in many languages. The sciences included mineralogy, biology, anatomy, medicine, astrology, and others. There were written works of literature, history, religion, geography, mathematics, and more.

Mathematics, as an example, was a system based upon the number 60 rather than 10, and included studies of serial, exponential, and logarithmic relations as well as processes similar to our use of the quadratic equation. Studies in geometry exceeded ours until a few years ago when we began to see hints from Babylonian clay tablets. Clocks were of three basic kinds--all very accurate. Tables of planetary positions challenge those we use today. Medicine was, in many ways, superior to ours because we tend to concentrate upon curing symptoms rather than causes and the Assyro-Babylonians attempted to treat causes in an holistic sense. There was skilled brain surgery, recognition of contagious diseases/treatment, use of drugs/herbs, use of antiseptics/sterilization, and many other things we think of today as "modern."

It was upon this foundation that the Chaldeans who deposed the Assyrians built their civilization. Chaldean rule was responsible for much building and growth in architecture, literature, and science. Large collections of information from the Assyrians led to innovations by the Chaldeans. This period, called the Chaldean Renaissance, was when astrology reached its last known pinnacle of truly scientific use. Later, after the fall of Babylon, the Greeks would pass on a mere shadow of the astrology of the Chaldeans which would become more distorted as it passed into modern times.

Special Contributions this Issue: Dionysus Pg 22-ME; Don Lewis Cover, Pg 7, Pg 12-II; IO Pg 16-GA; Karen Weed Pg 19-MO; Lenore Pg 11-GA; Lew Paxton Price Pg 5-CA; Nanshe Pg 14-FL; Nova Dawn Pg 8-IX; PAT N Pg 3-WA; Paul Beyer Pg 13-MI; Scott Fray Pg 14-MI.

Simply BE

By Jaime Redwing

"The Tao that can be told is not the eternal Tao. The name that can be named is not the eternal name. The nameless is the beginning of heaven and earth. The named is the mother of ten thousand things. Ever desireless, one can see the mystery. Ever desiring, one can see the manifestations. These two spring from the same source but differ in name; this appears as darkness. Darkness within darkness. The gate to all mystery."

Having lost all faith in his fellow men, heartsick, Lao Tsu saddled his horse and left his home, his life, and his position as Keeper of the Imperial Archives in the province of Honan, China. He was riding to the desert to die when a gatekeeper persuaded him to write his teachings for the benefit of generations to follow. The result is a book called the Tao Te Ching, and millions have followed his teachings since 600 B.C. Tao Te Ching (pronounced Dow Duh Jing) can be translated in different ways, but the best to me, is that of Gia Fu Feng and Jane English. According to their beautiful translation, "Te" is Virtue or Strength; "Tao" is Natural Law--in other words: "Simply Be." In beautiful poetry Lao Tsu's philosophy offers advice on everything from ruling your life to ruling a kingdom.

"The valley spirit never dies; It is the woman, primal mother. Her gateway is the root of heaven and earth. It is like a veil barely seen. Use it; it will never fail."

"Surrender yourself humbly; then you can be trusted to care for all things. Love the world as your own self; then you can truly care for all things."

Tao is a nature religion/philosophy that teaches we are not above or outside of nature...instead, we are one with nature. Its language is enigmatic and mysterious at times--at other times, it can be quite blunt:

"Look, it cannot be seen--it is beyond form. Listen, it cannot be heard--it is beyond sound. Grasp, it cannot be held--it is intangible. These three are indefinable; therefore they are joined in One."

The best example of living one's life by the Tao is given by Lao Tsu:

The ancient masters were subtle, mysterious, profound, responsive. The depth of their knowledge is unfathomable. Watchful, like men crossing a winter stream. Alert, like men aware of danger. Courteous, like visiting guests. Yielding, like ice about to melt. Simple, like uncarved blocks of wood. Hollow, like caves. Opaque, like muddy pools."

"Who can wait quietly while the mud settles? Who can remain still until the moment of action? Observers of the Tao do not seek fulfillment. Not seeking fulfillment, they are not swayed by desire for change."

Or, in other words, "Simply Be."

For more information on Taoism, I recommend Lao Tsu's Tao Te Ching, as translated by Gia Fu Feng and Jane English. It is available in hardcover and paperback, published by Alfred A. Knopf, and illustrated with incredibly lovely nature photography and calligraphy. All quotes in this article are from this translation. Also: TAO: The Watercourse Way, by the late Alan Watts. Watts studied oriental philosophy all his life. His lighthearted, humorous writing style makes studying TAO easy and fun.



American Indian Mythology ❄️

By: *PAT*

AKYCHA, SEGINEK. The Eskimo people say that the sun and moon, before they lived above us, were residents of the Earth. The Sun was the young woman, Akycha; the Moon was her brother, and they lived in a small Eskimo village where the people gathered each night to dance in the Dance Hut. Akycha lived alone; one night, while everyone was dancing, she was surprised by a man breaking into her home. He raped her and in the dark, Akycha could not recognize her assailant. After that she never knew when the man would come, but he frequently repeated the crime. One night, Akycha determined to discover the identity of the man. She rubbed her fingers across her oil lamp covering them with soot; after the attacker had finished with her, Akycha rubbed his face with her smoky fingers. He left, but she trailed him to the Dance Hut. There, to her horror, Akycha saw her brother with a smuged face. She grabbed a knife and cut off her left breast. Flinging it to him, she cried: "Since you desire me so much, eat me!!" Then Akycha grabbed a burning brand of wood and ran from the village. Her brother followed her his desired enflamed by the sight of her blood. He too grabbed a burning brand, but he missed and dampened its flame in the snow. On and on they ran until they were transported into the sky where, even now, they continue their endless pursuit.

True Sharing of the Heart

Nova Dawn

The true sharing of the heart
is one of the most powerful aspects of the Craft.
In its experience, it brings deep love and bonding which surpass
the mere meanings of words.

Through true sharing of the heart,
the powers of the Goddess are released within us
and we realize maybe for the first time
we are one with all Life.

We are no longer afraid to be the unique person we are
nor are we willing to let the power of the masses
repress that unique being of love we know ourselves to be.
We, the Children of the Light and Keepers of the Flame,
reclaim our right to express our own uniqueness as part of the
sacred dance that pervades the universe.

Through the true sharing of the heart,
we open the door that allows the Mother to weave Her spell
that never ceases to amaze us.

The power of the Craft lies with
the power of its parts--
it's our ability to come together in unity,
at the same time remaining unique in our diversity.
No other Path in the world has this power.
The Craft of the Wise is the Path of sharing hearts
that refuses to accept fear at the price
of our own unique selves.

So as a brother of the craft, I can only say
I am proud to belong to such a beautiful and truly unique
Circle of friends.

Blessed be.

Editorial reprinted by permission from Moorish Science Monitor, Vol. II, #6, Winter 87.

By Rabbi Jon-9

It is annoying to attend religious services and annoying not to. One who has had deep feelings for some organized religion finally gives up on its extant and visible self, usually after bouts of non-involvement, aggrieved attendance, and conquering indifference. "It is the evil of the age," explains the Voice of Tradition. "It is the self-judgement of an illusion," comes the Modern Explanation. Have we really no slicker attitudes to cop than these, a sour sense of personal purity or an embittered belief in our rational integrity?

The real culprit is the whole idea of organized religion, which ought to be stacked next to military intelligence, public education and jumbo shrimp in a museum of dizziness. How could we have believed that we could walk into any mosque/church/temple--the spiritual equivalent of a waiting room--and find our undiscovered and secret desires? Shame shame shame on us for having tried to share our spirit with less care and precaution than we would ordinarily exercise in sharing our sperm.

The people with whom one can do religion are as rare as those with whom one can make love--and not always the same persons! Better to make religion a beautiful personal solace, like masturbation, than to rely on paid priests/rabbis/imams, licensed by the state to practice unsafe spirituality and spread mental diseases, especially those which undermine the mind's natural defenses and immunities against silliness.

Anyone will tell you that religion is a private thing--but I teach you that religion must be a secret thing! Fools, guard your dreams! The wise have none so beautiful as yours!

Therefore, Moorish Orthodoxy. Because the title is less cumbersome than Anarchopaganzen-Hebraeochislam.

The Witching Well Education & Research Center
P.O. Box 1490, Idaho Springs, Colorado, 80452

A Who's Who of the Magickal Community

It has occurred to us that compiling a Who's Who of the magickal community would be a most exciting challenge. We need your help! Listings in the Who's Who will be based upon nominations. Please place your ballot! No matter what your orientation or where you are coming from, if you know someone you consider magickal, nominate them! Pagans, neo-pagans, sorcerers(esses), herbalists, shamans, elven folk, healers, witches. Your nomination does not have to be a public entity. Consider, also, those magickal people who have had a direct influence on you: friends, teachers, counselors, HPs, etc. When we receive your ballot(s), the nominees will be sent a questionnaire which will give them the opportunity to supply whatever information they desire for their listings. The Board of Directors of The Witching Well Education & Research Center will make their selections from the questionnaires returned. Compilation of the Who's Who is in progress at this time. Please place your ballot right away.

SHADOWBOOK REVIEW by Aridiana

A KABBALAH FOR THE MODERN WORLD, Migene Gonzalez-Wippler
(Llewellyn Publications, 1987) \$7.95

A "Compleat Caballah" ("Test" book--a word to the Wise) written in plain English the beginner can understand/intermediate will find rounding. Knowledge of Kaballah and historical/social research is good, tie-in with modern science interesting, magick rituals concise, and philosophy of Love (Divine and Manifest) is expressed clearly, Truly, and beautifully (and sounds rather, shall we say it? Pagan...).

The Tree of Life, pruned/preserved (though not planted) by the Jews thru millennia, can add a richness to one's inner life (regardless of religion) of a kind and degree not experienced on better known Paths of Mystical Searching (Yoga, meditation, Shaman Pathworking). Kabbalah "energy-working" (Magick) is "fast-acting" as compared to candle/prayer/spells/positive thinking/chanting, etc., and accurate. Ms. Gonzalez-Wippler includes some of her experiences making the book a useful tool for physical as well as spiritual realities.

However, the author insists that to correctly practice Kabbalah, one must adhere strictly to the ancient Jewish laws (excepting cases where they no longer apply in the modern world, i.e., slavery), Sabbaths, Holy Days--something the compulsive Magician may find comforting, but may turn away the Reform Jew, neo-Pagan (we have our own Laws/Holy Days/Sabbats) or esoteric Christian who has read the Bible and knows that Jesus changed some of the Jewish laws (suggested reading: The WHOLE Bible--Helpful Spiritual Hint: Compare/contrast what Jesus said to the 10 Commandments). Studying, using, practicing, loving, living, interacting and intermingling with Kabbalah should not mean having to buy into the thoughtform of the Jewish--or indeed any--religion. (When you celebrate the Holy Days of a religion, you draw the thoughtform to you and become part of it--"what you turn your mind to turns itself to and into you." MAGICK 101). Kabbalah as a Mystical Tool is One with the Source and carries the practitioner ever upward into the Source with no need for the structures of manmade religion/philosophy. (This is the danger of Mysticism perceived by all religions: adherence to the Spirit of the Law rather than the Letter--internal rather than external.) The insistence on rigid material aspects in turning people away will deprive them of a very special (tho not only) form of union with Godhead-Self-Others and/or working magick (this is, of course the "test"--however, the reviewer does not perceive it as valid--though it is ancient--"to," as Ms. Gonzalez-Wippler says (I paraphrase), "keep the profane out." The Tree is perfectly capable of protecting Herself.).

The best beginners' books in Kabbalah for the neo-Pagan/Wiccan who is drawn inexorably to the Tree are Helen Cannon Reed's The Witches Qabala (Llewellyn, \$7.95) and Ashcroft-Nowicki's The Shining Paths (Aquarian Press). For all Cabalistic students Kabbalah for the Modern World is an informative, highly useful book, but should only be read after you have experienced the Tree and Her Sephiroth and know this is a Path you should be on. The safest way for the beginner--who has no external teacher--to experience the Tree is Reed's Witches Qabala (whether "Witch" or not) and respect for the Living Being that is the Tree of Life. **Recommended with reservations.**



The Inner World of Fitness, Melita Denning, Llewellyn Publications, P. O. Box 64383, St. Paul, MN, 55164 -- \$7.95.

I believe in the maintenance of one's psychic being, for one can never expect to be able to truly work in the serious levels of the occult/mysticism without a strong/healthy psychic body. With this book, we have been given sound, constructive means of doing just that. It gives all the basics for really "working out" the psychic body. I liked the book very much for its understandability, its tremendous usefulness to anyone on any level of mysticism, and its simple practicality. A real must for anyone serious about their Work in the mystical.

Donna Lyon Rhose

Bardic Sampler

c/o ELF, P.O. Box 1082, Bloomington, IN 47402

I apologize that this review has not gotten in much sooner as it is something I am truly delighted with! It is an excellent way to get a good taste of the wonderful and variant talent that exists in the Pagan Community. The contributors are from all over the United States and the pieces chosen for the tape give solid examples of the artists. A brief bio is given of everyone involved. I especially recommend it since you can hear many different people and choose those you wish to hear more of without buying many tapes to find out. RECOMMENDED WITH PLEASURE!

Gil Wyndel

PEACE
by Lenore



All is peaceful
at the edge of beauty.

The man sits quietly rocking,
with his red dog silently beside him.



A stillness reigns which evades noises
and promotes meditation,

A meditation which is rare and timeless.

This edge of beauty brings music to all who listen,
even yon man in yon chair.

A softness permeates the air such as dew,
one's thoughts surrender to the enveloping solitude.

GODDESS ANTHOLOGY Collection of Data

True stories of women's experiences with the Great Goddess are being collected for forthcoming book. Please submit your experience (by November 1, 1987): 5-7 pages; true life event/interaction with Goddess in any of Her many aspects (not dreams/fantasies/visualizations/fiction).

How did you discover Her; what events were occurring in your life at the time? What do you think precipitated your Awakening? What exactly occurred which involved the Goddess (Be specific); what awakened in you as you encountered Her? How has your life changed since? Pseudonyms will be used to protect contributor, but please include: age, geographical area of residence, occupation, educational background, dietary/spiritual regimens you practice, religious background, any drugs involved in your experiences. A limited amount of Goddess-related artwork and photography of highest quality camera-ready will also be accepted for inclusion in the book. Send to: Helen Harvey, 414 Colusa Avenue, El Cerrito, California, 94530.



**the
Wiccan Rede** ★

SHORT VERSION

Bide the Wiccan Law ye must
In perfect love and perfect trust.
Eight words the Wiccan Rede fulfill,
An harm ye none, do what ye will.
Lest in thine self defense it be,
Ever mind the rule of three.
Follow this in mind and heart
and merry we'll meet and merry part.

*Rede (Old English from reden) = To give advice/counsel,
Archaic use: story, account.

Cauldron Stirrings

Rev. Paul V. Reyerl

I have wielded my athame with the moon for so many turnings
of the Wheel
that it has been drawn out into the lunar-shaped sickle
of the Crone
I no longer play the games of Beltane nor leap through
the Midsummer fires
for I live with one foot perpetually in
the Otherworld.
I carry the mysteries of Hallowmas
with me at every sabbat.

No longer do I shudder at the thought of death.

In fact there are those days when I think of it as welcome, a comforter of down rather than a shroud. And I have grown far more tolerant of life, yet far more intolerant (and likely to wield the scythe) of intolerance and the treatment of life as being of little value.

The Crone Walks in my shoes.

S/he is far more than the third aspect of the Goddess. S/he is also Cronus, Saturn, Dread Lord of Death. And S/he is the voice of death and the gleeful humor which comes with age when one realizes that so much of what we once considered so very, very important truly isn't important at all.

S/he walks quickly, now.

Once I was a child and older people talked about the quickness of time's gait. Now I sit in amaze and the Wheel of the Year turns like fortune's spinning wheel, and I have barely prepared to dread the worst of winter when the bulbs have resurrected themselves for Beltane. It goes fast, and some day I may choose to spend a week reliving my favored memories. Oh, you'll call me senile then, but I'll be having the best of times. For me it'll be an afternoon's reverie, for my youthful Moons passed more slowly and I'll be living in both worlds.

I love being old.

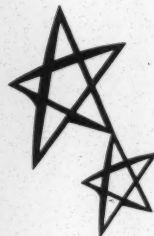
I would not give you a day of it. It is the most delicious of all life's Mysteries. Sadness is no longer a consideration for I have seen too much. Daily sadness has melded into reality as much as daily joy. It is serenity which greets my morning. Death and birth are reality. The harshness and sometime-injustices are part of the continuum of life. It is the youth who hold fantasies of a perfect world and while those dreams are essential it is the old who know better. Life will always hold mixtures of good times and painful times, perhaps in varying proportions, but a mixture nonetheless.

Ah, the Crone stirs the pot.


All of it. The hell I've seen, the hell I've raised, and the hell I've caused. And the joys, the best orgasm (which carried me into infinity--what a sweetie that one was!); the rites of passage, the birth I brought forth, the death I sat for. The Mother/Father stirs the cauldron to provide food. The Maiden and the Lad fill it with water and bob for apples or fill it with flame and leap over the fiery tongues midst shrieks of glee. But I scribe my Circle with the sickle of time, now, and cook the mixture of life and death I know reality to be. And that is the best cooking of all.

THE SOLSTICE DANCE OF THE DRUIDESS
by Nanshe


Tonight the Spiral Dance is begun
We acknowledge and celebrate
The rebirth of Her magnificent Son.
From the Cauldron He carries the seeds
The spark of the Power reaching brings
Gladly we give the life He needs
Truth awaits beyond the flame
Love is the Law
In our Mother's Name.
With each sweet sip of wine
The promise is made
To see His light shine
To look deep, beyond any fear
As He travels, seeking, unfolding
On the Wheel of the Year.
The Star Son will grow and rise
Through our vision of the Hidden
In and beyond his manly thighs.
With the Serpent too we shall dance
Seeking in the Twin the Wisdom
To be found at the root of the Lance.
For the Mother's heart looks from above
And His golden Self He sees
In the sacred light of love.
Our eyes will be the Fountain
For His Mother's pride and joy
For He is the mountain
That returns the echo of our song
The mirror through which
We discover Maiden, Nymph, and Crone.



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A Journal of the Old Religion.
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We sing the cycles of the moon
We dance the seasons of the sun
 and we love our bodies
 and we love the earth
We are Mother's children everyone

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 and we heal the planet
 and we heal ourselves
Giving thanks to Spirit in our lives

We walk the Path of Dark and Light
We know that death and birth are one
 and we love each other
 and we carry on

 In the song of moonbeams, dance of sun
 In the song of moonbeams, dance of sun

by IO



There is a soft breeze today,
it flows thru my parlor
 moving the curtains in a slight wave.
I walk onto my porch,
 there is a drink in my hand,
 my hair has spilled over my shoulders.
I sit on the swing
 allowing the breeze
 to soothe me.
Soon I will board a train that will take me away from here.
Everything around me is the same,
 the people running to unknown places,
 children playing,
 cars, buses merrily buzzing about this city.
This house is the same,
 these people are the same,
 only I am different,
 quiet, still.
One day I shall forget all of this,
 this life here,
 this place.
Once in my life--
 it will seem,
It was good to be here.
 Those times will be only words.



by Crystal '86

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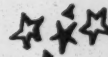
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SPIRIT WITHIN NEWS, A Prison Pagan Newsletter. CO/M.S.P. Pagan Group, Box A, Thomaston, ME, 04861

As the Cauldron Bubbles

by Aridiana

Zelag slowly walked around the circle, "Aba, baba, zixdoorel! Aba, abab, leroodxiz!"

Poof! came a large cloud of smoke from two feet outside the circle. "Well?" asked a booming voice.

"Oh my!" yelled Zelag, "It worked! But, what are you doing there? You're supposed to be in the circle."

"Picky, picky," came the voice, "all of you magicians are alike. Picky, picky."

"But, but," Zelag just stared at the large cloud of smoke, "you're supposed to be in the circle. Well, you're just going to have to go away--back to where you came from--I can't have this, this.... insubordination."

"Humph!" replied the booming voice, "besides that, you're boring. I want to go back--all you magicians are the same, always giving orders, orders, orders. Dull, really dull."

"Well, how do I send you back?" Zelag asked the booming voice while flipping feverishly through her Grimoire, "Oh dear, if I can't find the devoking, you'll just have to stay here."

"Uh huh," answered the Booming Voice, "First you say, 'Come;' then you say, 'Go;' then you say, 'Stay.'" I happen to be a Spirit, maybe even an evil spirit, I resent being treated like a dog. I'm going to take this up with the Demon Union Local 666. I'm tired of the bad working conditions. All you magicians are the same, you can't get anything right the first time."

"If you don't quit stereotyping us," said Zelag, "I'm going to call Xandarza and let her take care of this."

*Will Booming Voice continue in light of Zelag's threat to stereotype all magicians as being picky, boring, and inept?

*Will Booming Voice keep his threat and contact Local 666?

*Why is it people (and other beings) are always saying, "I wonder what Zelag's really up to?"

*When Bilboa got back from visiting Rigatoni the Swami, could he disappear or had he forgotten how?

Find out these answers, or others, in the next issue of Seasonal Silver.

SPiRaL

Full Moon, September, 1987

There is a tree that has its roots in heaven... a tree that contains all that is, and was, and will be, and might be, and could be. It contains a kingdom, a foundation, glory, victory, beauty, might, mercy, understanding, wisdom...and a crown. This tree is YOU! It is the Goddess in all Her Beauty and the God in all His Might. When we come together and share our knowledge and help each other we become teachers and continue the Path on the Tree of Life. Come to SPiRaL and join us on this wonderful journey of Life. Registration accepted only until August 17, 1987. SPiRaL, P.O.Box 26414, Albuquerque, NM, 87125.

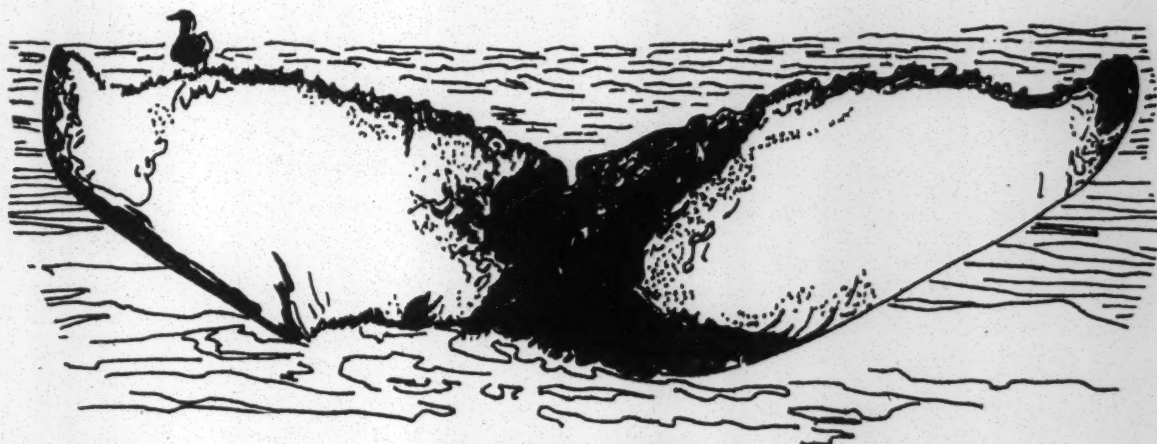
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QUEST The ACE Newsletter, The Association for Consciousness Exploratio., 1643 Lee Road, No. 9, Cleveland Hieghts, Ohio 44118 (216-932-5421). Tapes, lectures, discounts on items. Write for information.



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Whale Adoption
by Karen Weed

The Whale Adoption Project makes it possible for anybody to help make a difference in the future of Humpback Whales. The project was founded in 1984 by the International Wildlife Coalition to help save a species that is greatly endangered (as are all the great whales). There are only 5,000 Humpback whales left in the world--7% of their past population. Their endangered status is strictly the result of man (commercial whaling). The Humpbacks involved with the Adoption Project are part of a group that migrates from Winter range in the Carribean to the northern coasts of Cape Cod during the Summer. A whale is as identifiable by the markings on their tail-fins (flukes) as we are by our finger-prints--over 350 whales have been identified/named. For \$15 (fee) you can choose from a list of 70 names (with brief descriptions of each individual) the Humpback you'd like to adopt. You will be listed as the official protector and receive an actual adoption certificate and picture of your "child". The newsletter "WHALEWATCH" will keep you up to date on what's happening in your child's world. For adoption application and additional information write: Whale Adoption Project, 320 Gifford Street, Falmouth, Massachusetts, 02540.

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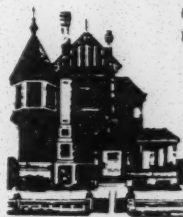


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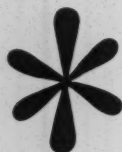
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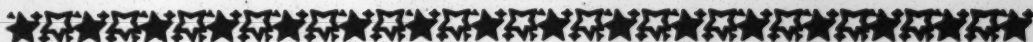
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With the advent of the 10th anniversary of the magazine of the Unicorn coming on Yule this year, I wish to encourage everyone to send contributions of articles, poetry, artwork, well wishes, to them to help celebrate! It will be larger than usual at no extra cost. It is unusual for a magazine of this kind to have carried on for this amount of time and it is sincerely hoped that they will be able to carry on to see their 20th! Please help celebrate--They're very special folks! Send to: The Unicorn, P.O.Box 8814, Minneapolis, MN, 55408.



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